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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

"New Species." — In a recent number of *Science* (No. 233) Mr. C. L. Marlatt speaks a necessary word as to some recent literature dealing with scale insects, pointing out that new species are being described upon entirely insufficient grounds. Every word of his short article is true; and, what is more, it is true in other fields than the Coccidæ. Every week brings to our table descriptive literature in which "new species" are founded upon the most trivial characters and new genera upon features of minor importance.

Mesenchyme vs. Mesenchyma. — There seems to be a growing tendency among writers on embryological matters to employ the word *mesenchyme* to denote the indifferent tissue of the middle germ layer. The word is taken from the German *mesenchym*, but pronounced as if it were *mesenkeim* in German. Why not use *mesenchyma*? It has good usage. It is not a foreign hybrid, and it belongs to a series of words that has been long in use, in botanical literature at least. We already have collenchyma, kenenchyma, parenchyma, prosenchyma, and sclerenchyma — why not *mesenchyma*?

Shade Trees. — One of the most crying needs of our larger cities is a concerted and intelligent popular movement for the planting and preservation of street trees. No one in the United States has done more to stimulate such action than William R. Smith, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society has done well to publish in its *Transactions* for 1898 a lecture on the subject, delivered by him before the society in February, 1898.

"Easy Science." — *The Great Round World*, an excellent little juvenile newspaper, tells the children that a Siberian traveler has found a beautiful flower that blossoms in January, resembles the *Convolvulus*, a blossom lasting only a day, and on the third or fourth day has the ends of the fine anthers tipped with glistening diamond-like specks — the seeds. And this is called "Easy Science."